

## Notes and Observations

A NOTE ON THE TERM 'TESTACEOUS' IN ENTOMOLOGY. — Recently, in looking up a reference in the *Ent. Record*, I chanced upon an article by H. N. Michaelis (1977, **89**: 183-5) in which he admits to being puzzled about the use of the word *testaceous* (pp. 184-5). The point is worth taking up briefly, for his perplexity is wholly understandable and others too may well have felt it.

As Mr. Michaelis says, testaceous should mean (according to dictionaries and derivation) brick-red. But the fact is that, for some reason hard to explain, in entomology at least it almost always denotes a considerably paler hue; this is clear from its use, both in English and in the corresponding Latin forms, by entomological writers from early times down to our own. In describing Coleoptera, for instance — and for that matter, probably, insects of all Orders — it has long been understood to stand for a range of shades basically yellowish with a slight tinge of brown or red-brown, in fact the colour of unpigmented insect cuticle more or less; in any case, by no means brick-red, which is a far deeper hue than what is meant. W. W. Fowler, in his glossary of terms used by coleopterists (1887, *Col. Brit. Isl.* 1:xiv), remarks under *testaceous* that it is very loosely used, and is applied to almost all yellowish or light reddish-yellow shades. It is doubtless a pity that the original meaning was not adhered to, but great confusion would result from any attempt to correct the established misuse. A. A. ALLEN

ARGYROTAENIA PULCHELLANA HAW. (LEP.: TORTRICIDAE)  
ON VITIS VINIFERA — In October 1985 a Common Room colleague was enjoying a post-prandial bunch of red grapes picked from a mature vine in his garden in Battersea, London; I noticed that a number of lepidopterous larvae were similarly enjoying the grapes, and was able to secure these, and a further batch from the garden, for rearing. The larvae, which were highly active when disturbed, fed from light webbing around the stalks of the fruits, eating only the skin of the grapes. Fresh vine leaves were refused, even in the absence of fruits. Feeding continued into early November, even though the grapes were, by then, shrivelled and mouldy. The larvae pupated in folds of tissue paper at the base of the container.

Before overwintering, two specimens of the ubiquitous *Cacoecimorpha pronubana* Hubn. emerged, causing a momentary pang of disappointment; however the remaining pupae were placed in a linen bag in the garden, and produced a varied series of *Argyrotaenia pulchellana* in early April 1986.

This species is commonly met on moorland and heathland, where it feeds on a variety of plants including *Erica*, *Calluna*, *Myrica* and *Vaccinium*. Carter, in *Pest Lepidoptera of Europe*, records